

2001: YEAR IN REVIEW

Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 was a transitional year for the National Endowment for the Arts on many levels: the Endowment received its first budget increase in nearly a decade; a major new initiative, Challenge America, was launched to provide access to the arts to all Americans; a new administration, with the election of George W. Bush, brought a new vision to the Arts Endowment; and Chairman Bill Ivey, who had led the Endowment for three and a half years, resigned at the end of the fiscal year.

Congress appropriated \$104,769,000 for the Arts Endowment in FY 2001, an increase of \$7 million from the previous year. The increase was specifically for the Challenge America initiative to make quality art available to all citizens throughout the nation. In the first year of the initiative, funded projects focused on arts education, access to the arts for underserved areas, and community arts development. Through innovative partnerships, arts organizations—together with artists, state arts agencies, schools, civic groups, and businesses—are making the arts central to community life.

Challenge America used fast track grants to bring funding to communities on an accelerated timetable through streamlined review and administrative processes. Organizations such as those designing a new performance center in St. Marys, Georgia and providing after-school arts programs in Walla Walla, Washington were able to receive their grant money sooner, and use it to leverage other public and private funds.

Challenge America also provided \$500,000 for an important pilot program, Creative Communities. A partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development—which provided \$3 million for the project—and the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts, the program provided grants for three-year projects that offer arts instruction to youth living in public housing. Approximately 5,400 children and youth will take part in the program.

Walla Walla, Washington non-profit organization, Blue Mountain Arts Alliance, received a Challenge America grant to support after-school art classes for city students. Photo courtesy of Blue Mountain Arts Alliance

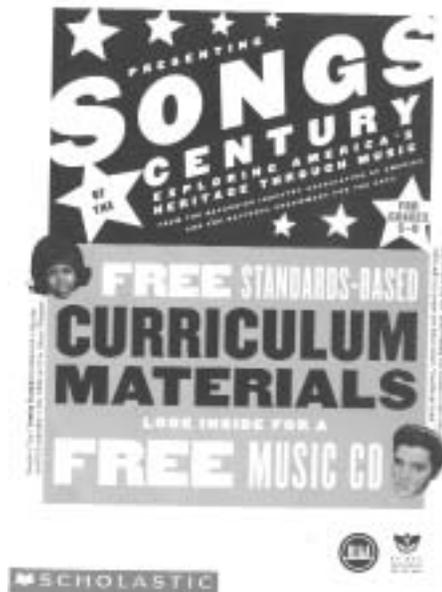


The Arts Endowment funded another new program in FY 2001, Resources for Change. This program assists arts organizations in addressing their organizational development needs. In the first year of funding, grants assisted organizations in applying technology to enhance their business operations and better serve their audiences. Resources for Change is the first time the NEA has designed a grant program specifically to meet the technology needs of the national arts field.

In addition to the \$7 million for Challenge America, the Arts Endowment awarded more than 2,100 grants totaling more than \$85 million in the areas of Grants to Organizations, Individual Fellowships, Partnership Agreements, and Leadership Initiatives in FY 2001. Of that amount, 40 percent of the grant-making funds was provided to state arts agencies and their regional arts organizations. Complete grant lists for FY 2001 can be found on the NEA Web site at www.arts.gov.



Arts education continued to be a priority for the NEA in FY 2001, funding more than 250 projects totaling nearly \$6 million. Project activities such as Shakespeare & Company's artist residency program in Lenox, Massachusetts, which brings professional theater artists to schools to



Songs of the Century curriculum materials were sent to thousands of schools nationwide.

work with students and teachers, not only provide the necessary guidance and knowledge to produce a new generation of outstanding artists, but also a new generation of audiences for the arts.

The NEA also conducted special activities in arts education in FY 2001, such as the Songs of the Century project through a partnership with the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and Scholastic, Inc. The nationwide initiative promotes a better understanding of America's musical and cultural heritage in our schools. Songs of the Century identified 365 key recordings from the 20th century and created a curriculum guide for teachers, students, and families that addresses core subjects—including literature, mathematics, and social studies—through a discussion of the evolution of music from historical, social, cultural, and technological perspectives. The lesson plans are being distributed to 9,500 fifth-grade teachers nationwide, and are available as a file download on the Songs of the Century Web site, www.songs-of-the-century.com.

Ben Havener as the Gravedigger in Springfield Central High School's production of *Hamlet* as part of Shakespeare & Company's arts education activities. Photo by Kevin Sprague

In addition to its grantmaking function, the NEA also serves as a national leader in the development of the country's cultural policy. In



Chad Shelton performing in the Houston Grand Opera's production of *The Elixir of Love*. Wortham Center, the company's home, was damaged in the June 2001 flooding in Houston. Photo by George Hixson

order to better understand the roles and needs of artists in America, the Arts Endowment put together colloquia on “Artists in American Life” in FY 2001. The sessions brought artists and arts administrators together on panels to discuss topics such as “the artist and society” and “finding an audience.” Chairman Ivey moderated the discussions. The sessions took place in October 2000 and May 2001, and panelists included poet and writer Luis Rodriguez, playwright David Henry Hwang, composer William Bolcom, dancer and choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, and trumpeter Aaron Flagg.

The Arts Endowment also uses special action grants for times when extraordinary circumstances necessitate providing grant money quickly. In June 2001, Tropical Storm Allison's torrential rains left much of Houston, Texas flooded, including the city's theatrical district. The Houston Symphony's music library and some of its instruments were destroyed. The Museum of Fine Arts' Education Office was devastated. Wortham Center, home to the city's opera and ballet companies, suffered water damage to its lower-level offices, costume workshop, and library. To help with the relief efforts for Houston's arts organizations, the NEA awarded the Texas Commission on the Arts a grant of \$30,000, the maximum amount allowed through a Chairman's special action grant. The Commission in turn matched the grant amount to cover administrative costs of the relief efforts. The grants helped arts organizations in the city replace damaged equipment and address other flood-related needs.

In the following pages, this Annual Report highlights some of the projects the Arts Endowment supported in FY 2001. These projects provide examples of the important contribution the arts make to American society, and the many ways the NEA assists in sustaining the arts throughout the nation, in urban and rural areas, in every region, in every state.